

A READING FROM ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time
for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Psalm: 107 (1-8; SAID TOGETHER)

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- ² Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- ³ He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.
- ⁵ They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.
- ⁶ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- ⁷ He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.
- ⁸ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

The Gospel: Matthew (13:24-30)

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

(People: Praise to You Lord Christ)